

USTAR Frequently Asked Questions

1. Are the funds ongoing or one time and may expenditures be carried over?
The funds are ongoing and may be carried over within districts and charter schools.
2. Can professional development be included in the USTAR plans?
The legislature has now indicated that the purpose of the USTAR monies is not for professional development. However, some of the teacher extended contract time could be used for math/science teacher collaboration and analysis to improve teacher instructional delivery, per a Japanese Lesson Study Model.
3. Why does the budget get 10 points on the evaluation rubric when applications MUST show 95% of the monies spent on teacher contracts?
The rubric is not intended to evaluate compliance with the law, but rather to assess the appropriateness of the use of monies.
4. When will funds be available?
Granted districts and charters will be informed of their allocations by July 31. Funds will be available August 1.
5. Are expenditures for professional development, curriculum planning, or data analysis approvable?
Only insofar as they are part of a collaboration and analysis process directly connected to instruction.
6. May we hire additional teachers with this money?
No, the funding may be used only to extend existing teacher contracts.
7. How will funded programs be chosen?
Programs will be chosen for funding based on the rubric included in the application. USOE will fund as many pilot programs as possible and will grant funding based on a proposal's adherence to the intended benefits of the law.
8. When will funded programs be chosen?
Proposals will be evaluated by July 31.
9. May monies from other sources be used to support portions of the USTAR plan that cannot be funded with USTAR monies?
Yes, in fact, this is encouraged.
10. Can money be used to pay janitors in the summer?
No.
11. Can money be used to pay maintenance or building costs?
No.
12. What is the data collection period?
The data collection period is from July 2008-September 2009.
13. What is the definition of highly qualified?
Highly qualified math and science teachers for USTAR are those who hold a valid, current mathematics or science teacher license.
14. Would those not currently teaching math/science but endorsed be eligible?
No, the definition of mathematics or science teacher is "a teacher with a secondary (7-12) mathematics or science teaching assignment."